

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – February 2023

EAST BUDLEIGH COMMUNITY SHOP

The AGM for members is taking place in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Monday, 27th February. Sales last year totaled £256,708, a small increase on the previous year. Gross profit was around the same level at £45,720, and after meeting all overheads the shop achieved a profit of £3,969. The community shop has worked hard to minimise price rises and has not passed on all the price rises of daily essentials. There will be a discussion at the AGM on using the surplus for the benefit of the community which I will report on next time

BOOK EXCHANGE

The Book and CD Exchange has been really busy with a very high turnover of books. Surplus books, or ones that don't get taken out for a long time are donated to local charities.

GREEN SPACES

The Pound has had a real tidy up! The owners of the new house have been really helpful and helped me clear nettles and level the soil. I have also strimmed and cleared the edges and path around the bench. The bulbs are all flourishing, and once they have died down I can mow again. It will be interesting to see if last year's wild flowers have survived, and some new seeds will be scattered as well.

I have mowed the War Memorial to clear the last of the leaves, and cut back the Pyracantha hedge, before the 1st March deadline.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY NEWS

The Devon Climate Emergency website at devonclimateemergency@public.govdelivery.com always has interesting news items covering the whole of Devon and is well worth a look. Research into ways in which we can provide electric vehicle charging points in the village continues, but so far projects which seem to offer free provision and an income for the Parish have all turned out to require a significant capital investment.

EMERGENCY RESILIENCE

In June 2022 I reported six blocked drains in areas that have been subject to flash flooding in the past to Devon Highways. I am pleased to say that four have now been cleared, in the High Street and by the Pound. I have again reported the two drains in Middletown Lane which are still blocked! Filled sand bags have been available outside the flood store by the Community Shop, but have not been called upon yet.

Cllr. John Tresidder.